RAWMARSH
Urban District Council.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1896,

BY

JAS. PICKEN, M.B., C.M.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1896.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rawmarsh Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

For the third year in succession I have the pleasure of reporting a comparatively low death-rate. Although 1 per thousand higher than in 1894, when the mortality was unusually low, and ·3 higher than in 1895, the death-rate of 16·4 per thousand inhabitants for 1896 is fairly satisfactory, and is ·7 lower than the rate for England and Wales. The sanitary work done in the parish during the last ten or twelve years may be effecting a permanent reduction in the death-rate. If so that is no reason for relaxing our endeavours, but should rather stimulate to further effort, as there are still many sanitary defects, the removal of which there is every reason to believe would effect a still further diminution of disease and death.

Thirty-five dwelling-houses were erected during the year against 27 in 1895. Twenty-four were erected in Rawmarsh and 11 in Parkgate, as compared with 21 and six respectively during the previous year.

The estimated population is 13,155.

HOUSES, POPULATION, &c.

	RAWMARSH	PARKGATE.	WHOLE PARISH.
Acreage, 1891	...	...	2549
Acreage, 1896	...	. .	2549
Number of Houses built and occupied during 1896	24	11	35
Number of Houses at the end of 1896	1089	1429	2518
Population at Census, 1891	4907	7076	11983
Population estimated to middle of 1896............	5420	7560	12980
Population estimated to middle of 1897	5540	7615	13155

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Five hundred and twenty-eight births (261 males and 267 females) were registered during the year, being 15 more than in 1895, and giving a birth-rate of 40·67 per thousand inhabitants against 39·93 for 1895.

TABLE I.

Showing the births and birth-rate for the year for each district and for the whole parish.

DISTRICT.	POPULATION.	BIRTHS.			Birth Rate per 1000 per Annum
		MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.	
Rawmarsh ...	5420	104	91	195	35·97
Parkgate ...	7560	157	176	333	44·04
Whole parish	12980	261	267	528	40·67

TABLE II.

Showing the births and birth-rate for the Parish for each quarter and for the whole year.

QUARTER.	BIRTHS.	BIRTH RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
First quarter	150	46·22
Second „	112	34·51
Third „	120	36·97
Fourth „	146	44·99
Whole year	528	40·67

DEATHS.

Two hundred and thirteen deaths (110 males and 103 females) were registered during the year, being six more than in 1895, and giving a death-rate of 16·4 per thousand inhabitants against 16·11 for 1895.

The mortality of infants under one year is nearly the same as in 1895. Ninety-three were registered against 90 during the previous year, giving an infant mortality of 7·16 per thousand inhabitants, and equal to 176 per 1000 births registered against 175 for 1895. This is 27 per 1000 births registered higher than the infant mortality for England and Wales. One hundred and twenty-nine died under five years of age, being seven more than during the previous year, and giving a death-rate of 9·93 per thousand inhabitants, equal to 60 per cent. of the total number of deaths, against 58 per cent. recorded for 1895.

Twenty-eight deaths were registered of persons aged 65 and upwards against 24 during 1895. The aggregate ages of 21 of these aged 70 and upwards amounted to 1,623 years, giving an average of over 73 years.

The mortality from Bronchitis and Pneumonia is 2·6 per 1000 inhabitants, as compared with 1·7 for 1895, which was the lowest I had recorded. Eleven children under five years died of the one disease, and 19 of the other during the year, an increase of seven and seventeen respectively as compared with the previous year.

The Phthisis death-rate is low, being ·9 per 1000 inhabitants against 1·4 for 1895.

There is a considerable decrease in the number of deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases, 35 being recorded against 48 for 1895, and giving a Zymotic death-rate of 2·6 per 1000 inhabitants against 3·7 for the previous year. The fall in this rate corresponds exactly with the decrease in the number of deaths from Diarrhœa, 11 being referred to this cause against 24 for 1895.

During the year the deaths of three persons were due to Accidental Injuries, two to Accidental Burns, one (a child) to Accidental Suffocation, and two to Suicide—one by laudanum and one by drowning.

TABLE III.

Showing the Deaths and Death-rate for the year for each District and for the whole Parish.

DISTRICT.	POPULATION.	DEATHS.			DEATH RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
		MALES.	F'MALS	TOT'LS	
Rawmarsh	5420	55	38	93	17·15
Parkgate	7560	55	65	120	15·87
Whole Parish .	12980	110	103	213	16·4

TABLE IV.

Showing the Deaths and Death-rate for the Parish for each quarter, and for the whole year.

QUARTER.	DEATHS.	DEATH-RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
First Quarter	60	18·48
Second ,, ...	53	16·33
Third ,, ...	33	10·16
Fourth ,, ...	67	20·64
Whole year	213	16·4

TABLE V.

Showing the Diseases to which the 213 Deaths are attributed, the district in which they occurred, and the number referred to each Disease.

DISEASES.		Raw-marsh.	Parkgate	Whole Parish.
Small-pox		—	—	—
Scarlet Fever		1	1	2
Diphtheria		1	—	1
Croup		—	—	—
FEVERS	Typhus	—	—	—
	Typhoid	—	3	3
	Puerperal	—	—	—
Cholera		—	—	—
Erysipelas		—	—	—
Measles		4	—	4
Whooping Cough		7	7	14
Diarrhœa and Dysentery		5	6	11
Rheumatic Fever		1	—	1
Ague		—	—	—
Phthisis		5	7	12
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy		18	17	35
Heart Disease		2	5	7
Injuries		2	3	5
All other Diseases		47	71	118
Influenza		—	—	—
Total		93	110	213

TABLE VI.

Showing the age at which the 213 Deaths occurred.

	Rawmarsh.	Parkgate.	Whole Parish.
Under 1 Year..... ...	38	55	93
1 and under 5	20	16	36
5 ,, 15	3	8	11
15 ,, 25	1	5	6
25 ,, 65	18	21	39
65 and upwards	13	15	28
Total	**93**	120	213

TABLE VII.

Showing the Monthly Mortality.

	Total Deaths.				Zymotic Diseases.		Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy		Phthisis.
	Under 5 years.	5 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Total.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	
January	15	5	4	24	4	2	4	2	0
February	7	4	4	15	1	0	0	2	1
March	8	8	5	21	1	0	2	0	3
April	13	4	0	17	5	0	4	0	1
May...........	10	2	1	13	3	0	0	1	1
June...........	12	5	6	23	5	0	2	0	1
July	7	6	0	13	2	0	0	0	0
August	9	3	2	14	1	0	1	0	1
September ...	6	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	1
October	11	5	1	17	3	0	4	1	1
November....	13	8	3	24	0	0	8	0	1
December ...	18	6	2	26	5	1	3	1	1
Total	129	56	28	213	32	3	28	7	12

TABLE VIII.

The following tabular statement shows the Zymotic Diseases referred to, and the number of deaths and rates of mortality caused by them in each district during the years 1895 and 1896.

	1895.			1896.		
	Raw-marsh.	Park-gate.	Whole Parish	Raw. marsh.	Park-gate.	Whole Parish
Cholera …………	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox………	—	—	—	–	—	—
Scarlatina ………	6	1	7	1	1	2
Measles ……….	1	2	3	4	—	4
Diphtheria………	—	2	2	1	—	1
Croup. …………	2	3	5	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	5	5	7	7	14
Typhoid Fever…	1	1	2	—	3	3
Diarrhœa ………	11	13	24	5	6	11
Total …………..	21	27	48	18	17	35
Zymotic death rate per 1000 per annum…..	3·95	3.58	3·73	3·3	2·2	2·6

TABLE IX.

Showing the natural increase in the population by Births over Deaths.

	Rawmarsh.	Parkgate.	Whole Parish
Births ………..	195	333	528
Deaths ………	93	120	213
Increase ……	102	213	315

SICKNESS.

Small Pox.—One case of small pox occurred during the year. The patient, a child one year old, had a fairly copious eruption, but was otherwise apparently well during the whole course of the disease, due, I have no doubt, to the fact that it had been previously vaccinated. I re-vaccinated the father and mother, and removed the whole family to the Hospital, where the mother and infected child were isolated separately from the father and three other young children. I was unable to trace the source of infection.

Scarlet Fever.—Cases of scarlet fever occurred in every month of 1896. It had been epidemic at Rawmarsh during the latter part of 1895, but diminished there with the closing of the schools at Christmas. It gradually increased at Parkgate as it diminished at Rawmarsh, but did not entirely disappear from either district during the year. There were reported during the

1st	Quarter	of the year	72	cases.
2nd	,,	,,	67	,,
3rd	,,	,,	50	,,
4th	,,	,,	27	,,
	Total for the year		216	cases.

Two cases were removed to the Hospital. The epidemic was mild in type, and only two deaths were caused by it.

Measles.—This disease appeared at Rawmarsh about the beginning of December. A good many children were attacked during the brief existence of the epidemic, which rapidly terminated after the closing of the schools for the Christmas holidays. Four deaths were the immediate result of the three weeks' prevalence.

Whooping Cough.—Whooping cough, which had been prevalent during the last quarter of 1895, continued so throughout the first half of 1896. It re-appeared for a short time in October. Fourteen deaths are referred to it for the year.

Diarrhœa.—Diarrhœa was more or less prevalent during July, August, and September. Eleven deaths were caused by it during the year, and all of children under five years of age.

Enteric Fever.—Cases of Enteric fever were reported in nine months of the year, July, September, and November being the exceptions. Defective drains were found associated with some, but no local conditions could be found to account for the origin of the other cases. One patient was removed to the Hospital. Of a total of 21 cases three died.

Influenza.—Influenza of a mild character was more or less prevalent during the first quarter and the last two months of the year. There was an epidemic of Bronchitis and Broncho Pneumonia among children in November similar to one I referred to in my report of 1894, and I have no doubt this was also influenzal in origin. No deaths were directly referred to Influenza.

* * *

WATER SUPPLY.

The following are copies of the Analyst's reports on four samples of water submitted to him during the year. Nos. 2 and 3 are reports on the water supplied by this Council, and Nos. 4 and 6 are on samples from private wells in the parish, one of which has since been closed:—

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
67, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water, received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council, on October 2nd, 1896. Sample Mark:—"No. 2 taken October 2/96, at 12·25 p.m."

Physical Characters:—

Suspended Matter, trace.

Appearance of a Column two feet long, clear and colourless.

Taste, Normal. Odour, none.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Grains per gallon.

Total Solid Matter, 21·28; which lost on Ignition, 2·24 g.
Chlorine, 1·70; equal to Sodium Chloride, 2·80 grs.
Nitrogen, in oxidised forms, trace ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), trace.
Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), none.

Degrees of Hardness, 20·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Parts per million.

Reducing Power, 0·72. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]
Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·05 parts per million.
Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·12 parts per million.

The water is harder than is desirable for general domestic use The proportion of chlorides is in excess of that usually found in waters from this district of unexceptionable origin, but in the absence of notable quantities of nitrates and of readily changeable organic matter I am not prepared to lay great stress on the anomaly.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

October 10th, 1896.

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
67, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council, on October 2nd, 1896. Sample Mark :—" No. 3 taken October 2nd, at 1.50 p.m."

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter, trace.

Appearance of a Column two feet long, clear and colourless.

Taste, normal. Odour, none.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Grains per gallon.

Total Solid Matter, 19·04; which lost on Ignition, 3·64 g.
Chlorine, 1·80 ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 2·96 grs.
Nitrogen in oxidised forms, trace ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), trace.
Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), none.

Degrees of Hardness, 20·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Parts per million.
Reducing Power, 0·65. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million part of water.]
Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·04 parts per million.
Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·08 parts per million.

The water is harder than is desirable for general domestic use. The proportion of chlorides is in excess of that usually found in waters from this district of unexceptionable origin, but in the absence of notable quantities of nitrates and of readily changeable organic matter I am not prepared to lay great stress on the anomaly.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

October 10th, 1896.

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
67, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water, received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council, on October 2nd, 1896. Sample Mark :—" No. 4 taken October 2nd, at 2.35 p.m."

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter, trace.

Appearance of a Column two feet long, clear and slightly yellowish.

Taste, normal. Odour, none.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Grains per gallon.
Total Solid Matter, 53·48; which lost on Ignition, 11·48g.
Chlorine, 3·70 ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 6·09 grs.
Nitrogen in oxidised forms, 1·54 ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), 5·94 grs.
Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), none.

Degrees of Hardness, 40·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Parts per million.
Reducing Power, 1·05. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]
Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·03 parts per million.
Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·20 parts per million.

These results show the water to have suffered contamination by cesspool drainage or similar impurity. The greater part of the polluting matter has subsequently undergone destruction by oxidation, but this process of spontaneous purification cannot be relied on to continue.

In my opinion the water should be regarded with grave suspicion, and its use for drinking should be wholly discontinued.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

October 10th, 1896.

PUBLIC ANALYST'S LABORATORY,
67, SURREY STREET, SHEFFIELD.

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water, received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council, on November 21st, 1896. Sample Mark:—"No. 6 taken November 21/96, at 9.58 a.m."

Physical Characters:—

SUSPENDED MATTER, small amount.

APPEARANCE of a Column two feet long, greyish and extremely turbid.

TASTE, strongly saline. ODOUR, none.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results:—

Grains per gallon.

TOTAL SOLID MATTER, 89·04; which lost on IGNITION, 10·64g.
CHLORINE, 5·10; equal to SODIUM CHLORIDE, 8·40 grs.
NITROGEN in oxidised forms, 0·03; equal to NITRIC ACID (anhydrous), 0·13 grs.
POISONOUS METALS (Lead, &c.), none. Iron, present.

DEGREES OF HARDNESS, 64·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon]

Parts per million.

REDUCING POWER, 0·55. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.
FREE and UREAL AMMONIA, 0·13 parts per million.
ALBUMINOID AMMONIA, 0·12 parts per million.

These results are not satisfactory. They afford evidence of infiltration of drainage or similar impurity. The polluting matter has, however, to a large extent, undergone destruction by oxidation. Such a water must be regarded with grave suspicion, and its use for drinking should be discontinued.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

November 30th, 1896.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector,

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1896.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1896 I have reported to the Sanitary Committee of your Council at their monthly meetings, that notices have been served for the abatement of the following nuisances :—

	NOTICES.
Defective and Choked Drains	58
,, Roofs, Spouts, and Fall Pipes, Conductors, causing dampness to Dwellings	22
,, Sinks and Sink Pipes	12
Accumulation of Offensive Water in Ashpits	18
Premises Unfit for Habitation	13
Accumulation of Water in Cellars of Dwellings	9
Defective and Dilapidated Ashpits and Privies	12
,, W.C.'s	4
To Remove Wooden Erections interfering with Air Space near Dwellings ...	3
Keepings Pigs so as to be a Nuisance ...	3
For having Undrained Stable	2
For Erecting Houses without Ashpit ...	2
Accumulation of Water Dangerous to Health	2
Cleanse Schools after Infectious Disease	1
Insufficient Privy Accommodation ...	1
To Re-open Drain Covered without Inspection	1
Ventilation of Workshop under Factory Act, 1895	1
Removal of Stagnant Water from Water Tank	1
Notices to Tenants to Leave Dwellings where Closing Order obtained under Section 32, Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890	3
To Remove Offensive Accumulation ...	1
	169

All of which have been completed or are in progress of completion.

DRAINAGE.

MIDLAND STREET SEWER has been relaid. Also sanitary earthenware tubes in place of stone rubble sewers in Church Street and Upper Haugh; whilst drains have been relaid in Holmes Yard, Church Street, Arthur Place, and High Street, Rawmarsh; Aldwarke Road Buildings, Chapel Street, Rotherham Road, Coleman Street, Ashwood road, Parkgate. The privies of 17 Houses have been altered to 7 W.C.'s. A manhole and chamber have been put in Netherfield Road, near Bradbury Street.

Ventilation of the Sewers is very much needed all through the district. Wherever sewers are opened for repairs or inspection the sewer gas is overpowering, and I have complaints frequently of the same in houses.

I urge the purchase of a "Flushing Van," so that sewers may be regularly flushed from manholes of the sewers at the head of each street.

Drains have been tested by smoke and water and defects remedied.

The large accumulation of water near Dilk's Buildings and Turner Street, reported last year, has increased, and several owners, as well as residents, have made complaint. The cellars at Dilk's Buildings are flooding from that accumulation, and causing expense to the owner in raising the cellar floors above subsoil water level. Some means of draining the said land area should be made whilst the levelling process by tipping rubbish on subsiding land is in progress, or in time of heavy rains flooding will occur, to the serious damage of the houses in that district.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

Proceedings have been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and a closing order was made by the Rotherham Bench of Magistrates for nine Houses, High Street, Rawmarsh. Floors have been relaid in 29 Houses, which were in bad sanitary condition.

SAMPLES, FOOD, AND DRUGS ACT.

Four samples of Water have been submitted for Analysis to Mr. A. H. Allen, County Analyst. Two were samples of Water supplied by the Council and two from private wells. The well samples were both condemned by Mr. Allen. One of the owners has since had the Council's water laid on.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 17 Registered Slaughterhouses. No fresh licence has been issued during the year. Seven of the Slaughterhouses have no midden, but remove the manure weekly. I have visited them at intervals during the year, and found all satisfactory.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

One Dairy has been registered during the year, whilst two persons have given up purveying, leaving now 20 persons on this Register.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There have been notified

			Houses.
216	Cases of	Scarlet Fever in	112
22	,,	Typhoid ...	12
1	,,	Small Pox ...	1
1	,,	Diphtheria ...	1
240	Cases in		126 Houses

There have been removed to the Infectious Hospital

1	Case of	Small Pox.
2	,,	Scarlet Fever.
1	,,	Typhoid.
4	,,	

One person was summoned and fined by the Magistrates at Rotherham for exposing a child at a public Board School whilst in the peeling stage of scarlet fever.

Pails have been sent in every case of Typhoid to specially take away excreta, &c., whilst a bill of instructions, drawn up by the Medical Officer of Health, has been sent to every infected House. The outside woodwork of convalescent portion of Hospital has been painted. The roof of the old Brick portion of the Hospital needs attention.

VISITATION.

During the year I have visited the yards and premises of 8,519 Houses, many times in company of the Medical Officer of Health.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

During the year there has been removed as per contract, by George Emery :—

In Three Months, 1336 Loads from 463 Middens.
,, ,, 187 ,, 109 Ashpits.
,, ,, 122 ,, Bell Cart Refuse.

Total ... 1645 Loads from 572 Ashpits in 63 days.

The Council have removed

In Nine Months, 4803 Loads from 1824 Middens.
,, ,, 457 ,, 341 Dry Ashpits.
372 ,, Bell Cart Refuse.

5632 Loads from 2165 Ashpits in 204¼ days

Total for year ... 7277 Loads from 2737 Ashpits in 267½ days

845 Loads more have been removed in 1896 from five Ashpits, less than 1895.

JAMES WHITEHEAD,
Sanitary Inspector.

I have regularly attended the Sanitary Committee or Monthly Council meetings, and read reports on the birth-rate, mortality, and general health of the parish. Monthly returns of the diseases prevalent in the district were sent to the Medical Officer of the County Council.

I reported nine houses in Moxon's yard, Rawmarsh, unfit for human habitation, owing to the dilapidated and dangerous condition of the walls and roofs. Subsequently I attended and gave evidence before the Rotherham Bench of Magistrates when closing orders were obtained. All the houses were vacated some time ago.

I advised the prosecution of a parent for allowing a boy to attend school while suffering from Scarlet Fever. This was an instance of gross carelessness, as the parents ignored the advice of the medical attendant, and acted contrary to printed instructions supplied by the Council. I gave evidence also in this case before the Rotherham Magistrates, and the offender was convicted.

The sanitary work done is shown in detail in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. From that report it will be seen that considerable improvements have again been accomplished during the year, in the re-laying of Midland Street sewer and numerous defective drains, and in the substitution of two pipe for dangerous rubble sewers, and of Water Closets for objectionable privies.

I have referred in previous reports to the need of Ventilating shafts at the heads of the street sewers. The statement of the Sanitary Inspector that " wherever sewers are opened for repairs or inspection the sewer gas is overpowering, and I have complaints frequently of the same in houses," is a grave one, and requires prompt attention. Periodical flushing of the sewers by washing away deposits would greatly diminish the generation and accumulation of gas. The condition of the Parkgate sewer in Rotherham Road ought to be exactly ascertained. Measurements of the depth of flow taken at different times at the manholes of this sewer between the entrance to the gas works and Little Bridge, point strongly to the conclusion that although there may be a fall between these two points the sewer does not fall uniformly between these points, but has subsided at different places, thereby causing solid and gaseous accumulations. Effective dealing with sewage at outfall works cannot remedy a state of matters like this. I think I may appropriately quote here the 19th section of the Public Health Act, 1875.

> " Every local authority shall cause the sewers belonging to them to be " constructed, covered, ventilated, and kept so as not to be a nuisance or injurious " to health, and to be properly cleansed and emptied."

The large collection of water between Rotherham Road, and the M. S. & L. Railway continues to increase and threatens property and the health of the inhabitants near. As it is now causing flooding of the cellars of dwelling-houses it is time the Council was taking decisive action.

The removal of night soil and rubbish has been efficiently attended to during nine months of 1895 by your own men, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and with a late Contractor as foreman. I have reason to believe you will find at the end of the financial year that the work has been done as economically as if it had been let out by contract.

New Street and Infirmary Road, Parkgate and Peas Hill Lane, Rawmarsh, remain in the disgraceful condition which has characterised them for many years. To this list of unmade, and, therefore, insanitary streets requiring your attention, I have to add Goosebut Lane, France Street, and a street at Sandhill still unnamed.

I have again to ask your serious consideration of the following recommendations :—

1—The adoption of stringent bye-laws regulating the deposit and removal of manure, offal, &c., from slaughter houses, or the erection of a public slaughter house.

2—The erection of a destructor or other efficient provision for the disposal of nightsoil and rubbish.

3—The adoption of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

4—The adoption of the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

5—The adoption of a new code of General Bye-Laws and of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

I regret that instead of having to congratulate the Council in showing a spirit of progress in the adoption of new bye-laws, &c., I have again seen evidence of a tendency to revert to ancient, unsightly and insanitary methods in the erection of dwelling-houses. Three dwelling-houses were built during the year, with your approval, which are practically back to back houses as they have only two small windows each (quite inadequate to secure through and through ventilation) in the back wall opening on adjoining land belonging to a different owner. Their erection is contrary to your bye-laws which are 27 years old, as they have no space at their rear belonging to them, and they are contiguous by their sides to each other and to other buildings. They are, therefore, contrary to bye-law No. 20, which requires that "every building to be erected and used as a dwelling-house shall have in the rear, or at the side thereof, an open space exclusively belonging thereto, to the extent at least of 150 square feet free from any erection thereon above the level of the ground." They occupy the site of part of the out-houses of an old farm yard abutting on High Street, a principal thoroughfare of Rawmarsh. Instead of continuing this system, it is plainly the duty of a Sanitary Authority to clear away these objectionable yards (of which there are several examples in Rawmarsh) whenever opportunities arise for doing so, and to direct building enterprise on modern principles, or at any rate something approaching thereto. A few months ago when your new sewage works were opened, rejoicings were indulged in, and very naturally indulged in, at the prospect of having successfully dealt on scientific lines with unhealthy conditions at the distal end of our sewer system. I think it opportune to remind you that some attention is also required on similar lines at the proximal and perhaps more important end of our sewer system—the drains, yards, and houses in which the people live.

Accompanying this report are Forms K^2 3 (A) and K^2 11 (B), duly filled up in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, and Table C provided by the Medical Officer of the County Council.

JAMES PICKEN,
Medical Officer of Health

Parkgate, 9th March, 1897